

## President's Column

### Thoughts on the Atlanta Biennial

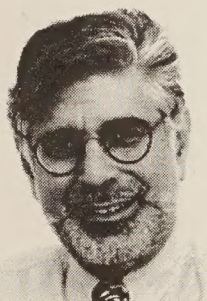
I joined Tiela Chalmers, Robin Leonard and Daniel Chesir as Sha'ar Zahav's delegates to the UAHC biennial convention in Atlanta. We all found it an entertaining, educational and uplifting experience. 4,600 Reform Jews (a good portion of them type A personalities) exchanging ideas, challenging beliefs, processing, occasionally voting, singing, eating, shopping and praying together. The depth of my experiences there will seep out here and there in my conversations for some time to come.

What struck me immediately (and I was not prepared for this at all) was the extent to which CSZ was respected and sought after for opinions and experiences. This was evident of course in the G/L/Bi after-hours lounge, but especially so in the workshops and on the Plenum floor. I now know first hand what our 18 years of history and trailblazing means to others and should mean to us. I was proud!

I went there as another Temple President, so marked by a white ribbon hanging from my name tag. Immediately people came up to me and said "Oh, I was one of those once!" or, "I know what Sha'ar Zahav has done! Welcome!" As the convention days passed and the experiences grew more intense, I became deeply aware of the debt of thanks we all owe for the years of preparation and work that Rabbi Kahn, Mike Rankin, Daniel Chesir, Paul Cohen, Don Albert, Robin Leonard and so many others have done for us over the years. Any of us would be welcome at a UAHC convention and afforded the respect I was because of these people's efforts for us and for our community.

Each day in Atlanta, erudition, orga-

*Continued on page 8*



David Stein

### Special January Havdalah

A special evening awaits members and their friends and family on Saturday, January 6, featuring Dr. Miles Krassen, Professor of Religion at Oberlin College, currently on sabbatical in the Bay Area. Professor Krassen is one of the foremost authorities on Jewish mysticism in the United States, and he will speak on the history of the niggun and teach several niggunim to the group. Members Rabbi Nancy Flam and Jonathan Comisar will also participate.

The evening will begin with a dairy potluck (S'uddat Shlishit) at 6 pm, followed by a Havdalah service led by Rabbi Flam, then singing with Jonathan, and Dr. Krassen's presentation.

Those born in the winter or spring should bring a dairy main dish for six; those born in the summer, a salad for six; and those in the fall, a dessert for six. CSZ will provide coffee, tea and juice. Mark the date on your calendar and plan now to attend.

### A Community Tu B'Shvat Seder

A ritual seder with ancient roots in Jewish mysticism but with an ecology message as modern as today will be held at 6 pm, Sunday, February 4, in the Friedman Center at host Congregation Beth Shalom, 14th and Clement Streets.

Tu B'Shvat, the New Year for the Trees, has a long and varied background dating to Talmudic times and a tradition that calls out to us to take care of our planet.

The seder, which was organized by the Environmental Action Committee of Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, is co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of San Francisco and Temple Emanu-El.

The ritualistic meal will follow the path of the 16th Century Mystical Kabbalists from Safed. The Kabbalists were concerned foremost with Tikkun Olam, a concept of spiritually repairing the world. They believed that the ritual consump-

*Continued on page 9*

### An Evening with Reda Mansour, Vice Consul of Israel

On Tuesday, January 9, from 7 to 8:30 pm, CSZ will host an evening discussion with Reda Mansour, Israel's Consul to the Pacific Northwest Region. Mansour will give us an update on the events of the week and talk about daily life in Israel. There will be time for discussion and questions. This will be a great opportunity for all of us to deepen our understanding of and connection to Israel.

Consul Mansour was born and raised in the Druse village of Issfiya in northern Israel. He attended Leo Baeck Junior High School in neighboring Haifa and the Technion-affiliated Bosmat High School. He subsequently attended Haifa University, where he earned his B.A. degree in Political Science and Middle Eastern History in 1991.

While at the University, he was active in the Druse Social Involvement Program, which worked in high schools to increase awareness of higher education. No stranger to social involvement, Mansour was the chairman of the Issfiya branch of the BBYO youth movement in Israel in 1982. In that capacity, he coordinated meetings between young Jews and Druse aimed at promoting coexistence.

*Continued on page 8*

### Thursday Minyan

In addition to our Monday morning minyan, which meets weekly from 8:30 to 9:15 am, a new Thursday morning minyan began on December 28. The Thursday Minyan meets from 9 to 9:45 am. It is led by Rabbi Nancy Flam and Alice Prussin. It will meet the second and fourth Thursdays of January and February to assess the interest in a second and slightly later minyan. Please plan to attend the Monday or the Thursday services. Dates for the Thursday service will be January 11, January 25, February 8 and February 22. If enough people are able to attend, the Thursday minyan will continue.



## Rabbi's Column

### Seeing Ourselves in the Divine Image

God said, "Let us make humans in our image, after our likeness.

They shall rule the fish of the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the whole

earth, and all the creeping things that creep on earth."

And in God's image, God created humans, male and female in God's image.

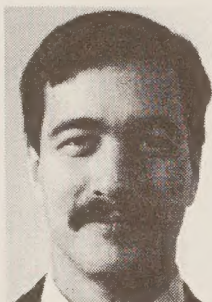
One of the special tasks of our congregation has been to help every person to see themselves in the Divine image. Rabbi Akiba taught: "Great is the gift of being made in the image of God; but even greater is the gift of knowing we are created in the image of God!" One of the routes to seeing ourselves in God—and God within ourselves—

is through the use of inclusive language. CSZ was a pioneer, insisting from its earliest days that all references to people and to God be inclusive. Long before the rest of the Jewish world caught on (and not everyone has!), men and women at Sha'ar Zahav came to value hearing and reading texts which were composed or edited in a non-sexist idiom.

Our access to gender-inclusive texts has been vastly increased through the recent completion of a new edition of the Torah in English by our hard-working member, Batya Kalis. Batya has retyped the entire text of the Jewish Publication Society edition of the Torah using gender-inclusive language. The entire text is available on disk and can be used for any CSZ project. We now can produce our own texts, with the Hebrew and our desired translation side by side. No longer will people have to try and degenderize off-the-cuff or wrestle with the awkwardness of figuring out what can be changed and what cannot.

There is a long and honorable history of Jewish translations of the Torah. The first and most widely known is that of Onkelos, an Egyptian Jew-by-choice who translated the Torah into Aramaic, the Jewish vernacular of his day, in the second century C.E. Onkelos did not offer a

*Continued on page 7*



Rabbi Yoel Kahn

## CSZ Adult Education Update

by Claire Rappoport

The calendar new year will bring some interesting and fun events for the CSZ community. Here's what we are planning thus far...

On Saturday, January 6, Batya Kalis has invited Dr. Miles Krassen, Professor of Religion at Oberlin College, to speak on the history of the niggun, and to teach us several new niggunim. The evening will begin with a dairy potluck at 5:30 pm, followed by a Havdalah service led by Rabbi Nancy Flam, then singing led by Jonathan Comisar, followed by Dr. Krassen's presentation.

On January 9 from 7-8:30 pm, CSZ will host an evening discussion with Reda Mansour, Vice Consul General of Israel, who will talk informally with us regarding daily life in Israel.

CSZ classes, in conjunction with Lehrhaus Judaica, begin in February. The classes are Beginning Prayerbook Hebrew 1B, beginning Wednesday, February 7, for eight sessions from 7:15-8:30 pm; and Jewish Faith and Heritage II, beginning Wednesday, February 7, for eight sessions from 8:30-9:45 pm. Both classes are taught by Phyllis Mintzer, RJE, and meet at CSZ. For registration, call Lehrhaus Judaica (510/845-6420) to request a catalogue.

February 10-17 brings the second annual Bay Area community-wide Feast of Jewish Learning. CSZ will participate by having a mini teach-in by Rabbi Kahn, Saturday, February 10, which will begin with a morning shabbat service at 10 am followed by a dairy potluck lunch and an afternoon session (approximately 1-4 pm) led by Rabbi Kahn. He will teach

about reading and talking about weekly Torah portions. Those interested please RSVP to Claire Rappoport (824-5007) or the CSZ office.

March 8-10 brings the CSZ Community Camp Swig Retreat (see page 3). This year's weekend is titled, A Community Retreat: Jewish Values and Spirituality in Daily Life. The goal is to encourage CSZ members to explore and celebrate our diverse relationships with Judaism. The deadline for registration is January 22, and details of cost are in the enclosed flier.

On Saturday night, March 16, the Travelling Jewish Theatre is offering a special performance at reduced cost for CSZ members. Call Dana Katz, CSZ Program Coordinator about obtaining tickets.

Also, in March (and April), Rabbi Kahn will teach a class on the Passover Haggadah on Tuesday nights, March 12, 19, 26 and April 2. Additional details will be announced in a future *Forward*.

Additionally, we are looking into bringing Mother Tongue Theatre, an adult Modern Hebrew class and several cultural (such as craft, cooking and music) classes to coincide with Passover. Lastly, the weekend of May 17-18 will be a Shabbaton to honor Rabbi Kahn's years at CSZ and to say goodbye. Watch for announcements and details closer to this time.

Also, I am sure that many of you have hidden talents and might want to offer a class, or have ideas on classes of interest. For further information or suggestions, please contact Claire Rappoport, Adult Education Chair (824-5007) or e-mail: CARapp@aol.com.

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## Letter from Israel

Dear Friends,

I write to you at the half-way point of my Year-in-Israel, the first year of my rabbinic studies at Hebrew Union College (HUC). I had hoped to write you of my simple life here: studying Hebrew, arguing with Israeli bus drivers, food shopping in Machane Yehudah (the Jewish market), celebrating Shabbat with my community here ....

And then Rabin was assassinated, and the illusion of my simple life in Israel was shattered. There have been tears and vigils, angry accusations and national mourning. As Rabin's granddaughter Noa quietly stated at his funeral: We usually wake up *from* a nightmare ... today we awoke *to* a nightmare.

I will no longer be known as the rabbinic student who was in Israel during 1995-1996; as one of my classmates put it, our careers will forever be marked as the class that was in Israel when Rabin was shot. A label I don't willingly embrace, but one that is mine nonetheless.

Rabin's murder is perhaps my first great test as a rabbinic student; indeed, for the past month, there has been little else discussed. Daily, I grapple with the multiplicity of trauma and questions brought forth: How could one Jew do

this to another in the name of Judaism? How can we speak of the unity of the Jewish people when there seem to be such fundamental divisions between us? How do we speak of shalom, of wholeness and peace, when violence seems to consume the debate?

Each day passes and I struggle with my relationship to Judaism, to the land of Israel, to our people's dream of living in peace in Eretz Yisrael. And I am comforted and guided by my years spent at Sha'ar Zahav: our model of diversity and respectful debate; of pursuing justice; of celebrating a Judaism that is alive and meaningful. It is my hope that all the peoples of the Middle East will come to peacefully co-exist with one another; that Jews will again be known as protectors of human life; that this land and people that I love so much will know only of war from history books, not personal experience.

I look forward to seeing those of you who are coming on the CSZ trip in April. Until then, be well.

Kol Tuv,  
Michael Latz

(Editor's note: Michael was a CSZ Kadimah teacher and service leader before enrolling in Hebrew Union College.)

## Treat Yourself To A Retreat In The Country

Are you weary of tasks, schedules, lists, bills — all the demands of daily life? Does the sound of your telephone, fax machine, beeper make you feel overwhelmed? Then join us in the redwoods for CSZ's community retreat: a chance to spend some peaceful, positive time with old friends, make some new friends, and learn and delve into your sense of spirituality and Jewish values.

On March 8 to 10, CSZ will be "retreating" at Camp Swig, the UAHC center in the redwood and oak forest of Big Basin State Park, near Saratoga. The site includes beautiful grounds, a community center and dining hall, a sanctuary, meeting areas and rustic cabins for guests. This year's weekend, A Community Retreat: Jewish Values and Spirituality in Daily Life, will allow CSZ community members to explore and celebrate our diverse relationships with Judaism: our beliefs, our spirit of Jewishness and our spirit of family through discussions, worship, meals, singing, dancing and other creative ways of developing and expressing our spiritual and Jewish selves.

We will have a number of workshops on Jewish spirituality and/or Jewish values in our daily lives, including in our work, our relationships with our families of origin and of choice, and in our dealings with money and issues of social responsibility. There will be workshop alternatives for the spiritually-minded and those who are not. We will also have plenty of time to talk, walk, laugh, sing (including around the campfire), play and pray. This is a chance to deepen your spiritual sense of the day-to-day, to examine how your Jewish values do or might affect your daily life, to build a sense of community and extended family, and to have fun.

This year we are planning extended Jewish-related activities for kids and teens aged 5-18, including several sessions of fun activities with Kadimah teachers. Child care is available for younger children at no extra charge.

The cost of the weekend (see enclosed registration form) will include cabin accommodations and all meals from Friday dinner through Sunday lunch. Meals will be served in the Jewish family style and options for vegetarians

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Michael Latz in Jerusalem.



## December Minutes of the Va'ad

**Rabbi's Remarks:** Rabbi Kahn has been appointed to serve on the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council.

**Dues/Membership Committee Reports:** Five new member households were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Credit cards are being used a lot, resulting in dues collections being \$12,000 ahead of this time last year.

**Dues Policy:** The Va'ad discussed several possible dues structures and hopes to bring a recommendation to a special congregational meeting in March. Tiela and David attended several dues-related workshops at the UAHC Biennial in Atlanta. The three issues facing the Va'ad are:

### Structure

Flat rate, or flat rate with categories (age, family status, etc.)?

Fair Share (flat percentage of income, or graduated percentage of income)? The national trend has been to fair share systems.

### Timing of the increase

All at once?

Phased in gradually, such as over two or more years?

### How much of an increase?

Flat percentage increase across the board?

Graduated increase based on income or other categories?

**Employment Policy:** The new policy on hiring CSZ members was unanimously approved. Members can now be hired in non-confidential positions, such as Kadimah teachers or performers.

**Camera/Video Policy:** Rabbi Kahn's proposal on the limited use of cameras

*Continued on page 6*

## Sara Felder Opens at Theater Rhinoceros

CSZ's own Sara Felder is well known and loved for her solo theater work using juggling and object manipulation to tell moving and comic stories brimming with Jewish and lesbian content. With *The Lady Upstairs: A Love Story About Atomic Fission*, Sara moves offstage and into the role of playwright.

*The Lady Upstairs* is a three-character comedy which explores the scientific, historical and moral issues surrounding the making and use of the world's first atomic bomb, in the context of a contemporary lesbian love story.

*The Lady Upstairs* was commissioned by and premiered at Intersection for the Arts in 1992, where it received great critical acclaim. This new production, revised by Felder and directed by Mary Coleman, opens at Theater Rhinoceros on January 13, and runs through February 10.

When Sara Felder is not writing or performing, she enjoys playing clarinet with Gay iz Mir, CSZ's own klezmer band.

For tickets, group sales or more information about *The Lady Upstairs: A Love Story About Atomic Fission*, please call Theater Rhinoceros (861-5079).

## Oneg Sponsors

These generous people sponsored onegs during the month of December:

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 8  | G'dali Braverman, in memory of Roy Reinholz                                  |
| 22 | Bon Brown and Johanna Ceapach Choinn, in honor of their seventh anniversary. |

## Naches

To **Drew Parker** on his new job at Iconic Interactive.

To **Yona Barth-Rogers** on becoming *bat mitzvah*.

To **Lisa Niver** on her new job at Club Med Copper Mountain skiing and doing child care. She'll be back with us next fall.

To **David Angel and Ronalda Murphy** on the birth of Zachary Robin Angel Murphy.

To **Ellen Elias and Robyn Bramhall** on their fifth anniversary.

To **Stephen Hauptman and Trudi Chamoff Hauptman** on their 25th anniversary.

To **Matricia Person and Sharon Tanenbaum** on their 15th anniversary.

To **Rose Katz and Carol Seajay** on the purchase of their new home.

To **Susan Gelmis** whose article, "Yes, I am a Genuine Jew," was published in the Winter 1995 issue of *Reform Judaism*.

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members this month. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

**Michael Broder**

**Elizabeth Kassoff**

**Renee Lafarge & Debbie Ruskay**

**Vadim Milman**

**Michael Schwartz**

We are grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.



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Members of the congregation receive the *Forward*. For \$18/year, nonmembers will receive a *Forward* subscription.

#### Members of the Newsletter Committee

*Chairs:* by committee

*Editorial Coordinator:* Batya Kalis (821-3855)

*Layout Coordinator:* Rose Katz

*Editing/Proofreading/Layout:* Alison Cohen, Joe Hample, Stephan Howard, Richard Inlander, Robin Leonard, Martha Moon, Ron Moskowitz, Dona Rabinowitz, Allyn Stern, Sam Thal

*Photography:* Michael Bettinger

*Advertising:* Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@aol.com)

*Distribution:* Joe Hample, coordinator; Alison Cohen, Virginia Donohue, Leora Eisenberg, Tess Johnson, Stan Kern, Mark Klaiman, Michael Magedman, Gordon Osser, Drew Parker, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein

*Typesetting:* David Lester, Mouse Type Inc.

*Printing:* Genesis Printing & Graphics

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for nonmembers and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked: attention *Forward* advertising. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

January 1996/Volume 19, Issue 5

## Classifieds

**ALL THINGS MACINTOSH:** Professionalize/computerize your business. Get online now. Quick-en • Work • Excel • Hard disk tune-up. Roslyn Fuerman 510-526-1209.

**COMPUTER/WP MAVEN** needed to help new CSZ librarian at home in DOS Shell. Free dinner in East Bay. Call the CSZ office for information.

**STRESSED OUT?** Then it is time for post-holiday healing. Felix Berenberg, Ph.D., licensed psychologist. Office at Gough/Hayes. Call 566-5191.

## Oneg Schedule

As described in the October, 1995 *Forward*, every CSZ member who lives in the immediate Bay Area has been assigned to volunteer at **one** oneg each year. The schedule for the next two months is below. (If you have asked the synagogue not to print your name in the newsletter, your name will not appear on the schedule; however, you are still assigned for the week where your name falls alphabetically.) You'll also be called or sent a postcard reminding you that your week is coming up. Volunteering means:

- set up the oneg (come at 7:30 and put up hot water, pour juice/wine, set out food)
- clean up the oneg (put away food/drinks, collect plates, wash dishes, wipe off tables), or

### Jan. 5

H. Carrey  
T. Chalmers  
A. Chandler  
P. Charney  
S. Charney  
D. Chasnoff & K. Klausner  
M. Chertok  
D. Chesir

### Jan. 12

B. Choden & L. Scott  
A. Cohen  
A. Cohen  
E. Cohen & G. Miskatel  
J. Cohen  
M. Cohen  
M. Cohen  
P. Cohen & B. Gutterman

### Jan. 19

R. Cohen  
S. Comerchero  
J. Comisar  
C. Costello & A. Hall  
D. Couch & N. Halloran  
R. Crane  
B. Cymrot & D. Wu

### Jan. 26

A. Daniels & J. Zingman  
J. Davidson  
J. Davidson  
S. Davis  
P. de Haan & R. Rainero  
W. Denebeim & M. Vogel

- bring food (cookies, cake, kugel, cut vegetables, fruit or whatever you want, as long as it's vegetarian).

Please call the oneg chair, Allan Gianini (255-8117) a week in advance to confirm what you want to do. We'll provide instructions for people setting up and cleaning up.

Participation each week is on a first-come, first-served basis, with the primary goal being getting enough people to set up and clean up. If you have circumstances which make it impossible for you to ever help with an oneg, please let Allan know.

If you have volunteered at an oneg since August 4, 1995, you have fulfilled your 1995-1996 oneg obligation and can ignore your name when it appears.

### Feb. 2

M. Dickstein  
R. Discher  
C. Dodd  
V. Donohue & M. Klaiman  
J. Dorf  
D. Dreisbach & J. Newstat  
N. Drooker & A. Sabin

### Feb. 9

L. Eden & R. Schoenbach  
J. Edlin & E. Meyer  
D. Ehrlich & A. Reed  
G. Eichenbaum  
L. Eisenberg  
S. Eisenman & J. Moed

### Feb. 16

E. Elias  
S. Elman  
A. Elster  
N. Epstein  
S. Feinstein  
D. & S. Felder Noily  
L. Feldstein  
K. Fierer

### Feb. 23

L. Fine & S. Goodman  
F. Fishman  
N. Flam & N. Kudler  
J. Forman & P. Nemrow  
A. Fournier  
S. Fraimow-Wong



## Report from the Program Coordinator

### Mitzvah Opportunity

CSZ is providing and serving food at a shelter located at St. Boniface Church on January 10, 12 and 13. We have recruited some volunteers, however we still need assistance. If you are interested in joining a team to prepare and/or serve food, please call Dana Katz at the CSZ office.

### Tot Shabbat

Join us for an evening of songs, stories, and snacks on Friday, January 19. We will meet from 7 to 7:30 pm. in the Oneg Room. We still need volunteers to make this a great Shabbat for your pre-schoolers. If interested in helping out, please call Dana Katz at the CSZ office.

### Youth Chavurah's First Overnighter

Youth Chavurah's first overnight will take place on Friday, January 26. We will start the weekend at 6 pm in the library, where the members and their families are invited for dinner.

Later in the evening, we will attend services which will be led by our very own Rebecca Doctors-Cohen and Evan Kuluk. The youth will spend the night at CSZ under the supervision of Dana Katz, Youth Chavurah Advisor, who will lead activities until Saturday, at 4 pm.

Dana will keep you posted as to the logistics of the weekend. For now, just mark your calendars and look forward to seeing your friends! Call Dana at the CSZ office with questions or concerns.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

### Anniversaries

- 1 Lawney Baldwin & Tony Vernola
- 1 Sharon Tanenbaum & Matricia Person
- 1 Leslie Katz & Susan Bluer
- 5 Ellen Elias & Robyn Bramhall
- 14 Lane Schickler & Steven Levine
- 15 Barbara Becker & Ellen Press
- 16 Ida Kuluk & Susan Spott
- 23 Stephen Hauptman & Trudi Hauptman
- 28 Stephanie Wolper & Jane Greenfield
- 29 Andrea Palash & Dianne Hawk

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## Va'ad

*Continued from page 4*

and videos during lifecycle ceremonies and other CSZ ritual events was unanimously approved.

**Administrator's Report:** A new janitor was hired. High Holidays ticket arrangements were very stressful to the office staff, but were very smooth for the coordinators. We'll have to work at making it smoother for everyone. A new Thursday morning minyan at 9 am starts January 11.

**High Holidays Problems:** There were logistical problems with the Order of Remembrance of the Names (sound from other rooms, doors slamming in small room from people leaving early). Discussion groups were evicted early from the large room where the Yom Kippur break fast was being set up. Pre-teen children were running amok and need an alternate space with supervision; children's services should be better planned in advance. Ft. Point may not work for Tashlich anymore—too many people; permit fee is required. Fewer ticket problems occurred than expected. Many of the newly printed prayerbooks fell apart; the ritual committee will be contacting the printer to have the books rebound.

### President's Report:

**Bush St. Synagogue:** Ron Wilmot is looking into the cost of renovation (estimated by others at \$3.5 million). Purchase price of the historical building would be a mere \$1 since the city would like to see it restored.

**Rabbi Kahn Shabbaton:** May 17-18 weekend. Plans include a special musical Shabbat service Friday night, a visiting scholar all day Saturday, and dinner at a restaurant Saturday evening.

**Chalmers-Leiss Benefit/Fundraiser** will be March 23. Allan Berenstein is chair.

**Camp Swig Weekend** is March 8. Plans include workshops for families, singles, teens and seniors, with cost on a sliding scale \$105-125 per adult and less for children. Fees include all meals and professional childcare services. Partial costs will be covered by seed money from the Bureau of Jewish Education, plus Ma'ayan and Adult Education funds.


**Calendar Update:** An interfaith effort to support the homeless is being coordinated by various churches and synagogues. The Va'ad agreed to serve shelter dinners on Wednesday, January 10.

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word-for-word translation by any stretch; he used euphemisms, interpolations and emendations to reflect his understanding of the Torah's intent. For centuries, Onkelos's translation has been a source of study and guidance to the interpretation of the Hebrew text. Similarly, the translation that Batya has produced reflects a CSZ sensibility about our understanding of the Torah. We will use it for study purposes along with many other interpretations and translations; and it will be the official CSZ translation for services, publications and readings.

We are proud of and grateful to Batya for her labor of love. We will honor the completion of this mitzvah at a *Siyyum*—a celebration in honor of completing a period of study—on Friday night, February 2. This Shabbat is also Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song. In addition to a special Torah reading, the service will include instrumental music and the premiere of a new setting for *Mi Chamocha* by Jonathan Comisar.

## Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah

I will be meeting with members who would like to begin work towards adult bar or bat mitzvah on Thursday, January 18 at 7:45 pm in the Library. If you have been thinking about becoming bar/bat mitzvah and would like to join this group, or just have questions, please attend this meeting. The goal of this meeting is to organize a group of members who will prepare together for a bar/bat mitzvah ceremony in early 1997.

## Feeding the Hungry & Homeless

As you probably know, there is a woeful inadequacy of shelter beds for the homeless of our city. While it is essential that we continue to agitate for compassionate and quality care, it is also important to give our support to the existing institutions in our city. The San Francisco Interfaith Coalition coordinates the shelter activities of a large number of congregations. CSZ has agreed to provide dinner and bag lunches for the approximately fifty shelter guests at St. Boniface Church on January 10, 12 and

13. If you would be willing to cook something in advance, help with driving/logistics or serve and set up (approximately 5-9 pm) on one of these dates, please call the synagogue office. There is a volunteer team captain for each night and one of the captains will contact you.

As you can see, we have a very full CSZ calendar this winter and more planned for the spring. Please join us for one or more of the educational, worship, service or study opportunities which are featured. Your participation is a gift to yourself and to the community.

## Major Victory in Israel

*By Ron Lezell*

The Association of Reform Zionists of America (ARZA) hailed the Israeli Supreme Court's decision of November 12 which struck down the requirement that conversions to Judaism in Israel must be authorized by the Orthodox rabbinate. This landmark decision paves the way for the continued goal of bringing equal rights to Jews in Israel.

Currently in Israel, the Orthodox have a stranglehold over who is considered a Jew for purposes of conversion and especially marriage. The court case in question was brought by a Brazilian woman who underwent a Reform conversion and married a Jew but could not be registered in Israel by the Interior Ministry as a Jew.

Conversion is but one controversy in the way of full, legal recognition of Reform Jews. Such recognition is one of the goals

of ARZA's Operation Equality Campaign. The centerpiece of this campaign is the introduction of a marriage bill to the Knesset that would allow for full recognition of Reform rabbis and the freedom for Reform Jews to marry in a ceremony of their choice that would have legal authority.

This bill would help couples like Ruti and Yair Cohen, who attended CSZ's Erev Shabbat services on December 8. Ruth and Yair were unable to marry in Israel under the current Orthodox monopoly on marriage since he is a Kohen and she a divorcee. They were married on December 1 in Atlanta in front of 4,000 delegates to the UAHC biennial convention. The Knesset legislation to be put forth by the Reform movement in Israel, backed by ARZA, would enable Israelis like Ruti and Yair to be married in their homeland.

ARZA serves as the official representative of North America's Reform Jewish community for all issues pertaining to Israel and Zionism as well as the official voice for all matters related to Reform Judaism in Israel. If you have not already joined ARZA, you can do so by sending a check to CSZ for \$25 (\$35 for a couple), payable to ARZA.

## Condolences

We extend our condolences to:

**Mark Bowers**, on the death of his friend, Stephen Martin.

**Julie Moed**, on the death of her friend, Rick Uppling.

The memory of the righteous is for blessing.



**Hartford**  
PROPERTIES

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with CSZ members in  
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**DEBORAH UDIN**

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## President

*Continued from page 1*

nization, governance and spirituality came in waves. It was a challenge deciding which kind of morning minyan to go to: sephardic? feminist? which workshops to attend: Daniel co-lead a workshop on ethical wills; other workshops addressed the history of the Reform prayerbook, transforming the small religious school, dues sensitivity, leadership development 1, 2 or 3, rabbinic transition. I went to a Shabbat teaching luncheon on reading the Torah spiritually—a dialogue with our ancestors, and wish it had gone on and on. The four of us generally went to different workshops and study sessions to maximize the group experience (so CSZ-like!).

There was one Kabbalat Shabbat service for 4,600 people. Traditional Reform. Traditional cantorial singing. Honestly, I felt a little less than spiritually uplifted even though it was amazing to be silent and listen to 4,600 others chant the *v'ahavta* in unison. Shabbat morning service, however, was more CSZ-like with the same 4,600 Reform Jews rejoicing and singing together.

I have been asked more than once, what one or two things crystallize the convention. One crystal, of course, was the electrifying farewell address by Rabbi Schindler. No additional adjectives can describe the contents and its classical form and delivery. There is a tape of it in our library for you to borrow and hear and a transcript for you to read. He made one point very clearly and repeated it to Daniel personally: the need for rabbis and synagogues to be proactive in sanctifying gay and lesbian unions. That is to say: it is time we insist on gay/lesbian marriage religiously and legally. We plan to do just that!

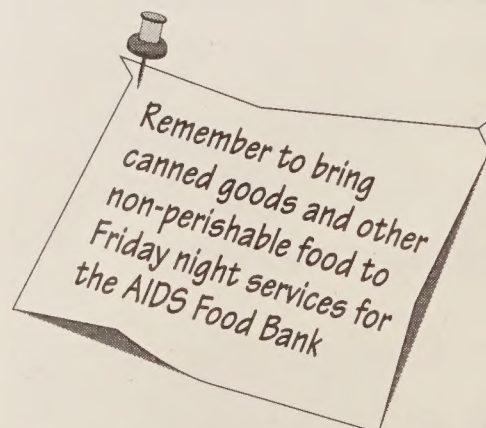
The second crystal was Rabbi Larry Hoffman's keynote address. Rabbi Hoffman is a professor of liturgy at HUC-JIR and is the voice we hear while reading the report of the task force on Synagogue 2000, a research forum giving light to what we will become. The synagogue to Rabbi Hoffman and now to me and others, is a transforming agent. To be so, it must become "a spiritually alive adult-oriented center of Jewish meaning and memory." These are highly charged words, worthy of our serious discussion.

Rabbi Hoffman enumerated five

touchstone features of the Reform synagogue for the next century. (1) Reform worship in the next century will be inspiring thus transforming the member with its vision. (2) The synagogue will be a place of serious learning for adults and children. (3) The synagogue will be a place where you matter, and thus a healing center. (4) The synagogue will be a center of *tikkun olam* because it is a place where we can heal ourselves. The ritual practices of our synagogue will provide an ethical basis for how we transform the world in our vision. (5) The synagogue will provide a spiritual basis for our infrastructure: the business of the synagogue will be an integral part of the spiritual odyssey of its leaders, staff, volunteers and members.

If I may extend Rabbi Hoffman's observations: All of us as members of CSZ, and as part of our generation of Reform Jews are more committed to Jewish study and worship than any generation before. This is a feature of our character. Yet we are not content only to study and worship in the safety of our synagogue building. We must transform ourselves by our outreach, our sense of mission of *tikkun olam*, allowing it to take multifaceted forms: environmental and health programs, our concern for the well-being of all children, our ethically-based political and economic decisions.

I see so much of Sha'ar Zahav in these statements. How refreshing it is to know we are not finished, and we naturally belong to the UAHC.



## Members' Yahrzeits

8	Cheryl Orvis
9	Jerry Davis
18	Keith Fenton
20	George Ash

## Retreat

*Continued from page 3*

will be provided. A limited number of scholarships are available and volunteers are needed throughout the weekend; call Michael Zimmerman (252-7672). The final registration deadline is January 22. Space is limited so sign up soon! Further directions and details will be sent to you after your registration and payment are received. Please return the completed registration form and your payment to the CSZ office as soon as possible. If you have any questions please call Tiela Chalmers (431-4312).

## Mansour

*Continued from page 1*

Mansour joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990. From 1992 he served in the International Organizations Division, focusing on U.N. affairs. In August 1993, he came to San Francisco to take the position of Consul to the Pacific Northwest Region.

In addition to his capacity as a diplomat, Mr. Mansour is also an accomplished poet. He has published two books of poetry and is at work on two more, as well as a book of short stories dealing with the Druse experience in Israel. The consul also has been a frequent commentator in the Israeli press.

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### *AIDS Fund*

Rachel Wahba and Judy Dlugacz, in loving memory always of Katie Wahba.

Melinda Marmer, in memory of Irving and Barbara Marmer.

### *Building Fund (includes Office Automation Fund)*

Drew Parker and Mike Siani, in honor of their first anniversary.

Bill Denebeim and Mark Vogel, in honor of their Ceremony of Affirmation.

Miriam R. Epstein

Patricia Bigglestone, in memory of Clint Bigglestone.

### *Chesir-Stein Music Fund*

Jonathan Funk and John Arnold, in memory of Laurent Gasparini and Michel Orandi-Vossotsky.

### *Children's Education Fund*

Paul Cohen and Bob Gutterman, in memory of Sidney Rosenthal.

### *General Fund*

Henry Carrey, in memory of Abraham Carrey.

Perry Paker, in memory of Meyer Paker.

Daniel Chesir, in memory of Frank Chesir.

Edward Pollock, in honor of Tiela Chalmers, for providing the congregation with extraordinary leadership during her term as President.

Peter L. Stein

Steve Rosenthal

Stacey Shuster and Joan Lefkowitz, in memory of Stan Hauer.

Aaron Hamburger, in honor of Joel and Hilda Hamburger.

Edward Pollock, in honor of Lea Salem for all her dedication, energy and insight.

Dutch Mikuls

Sharon Kehnemui

Bruce Goldstein

Ingrid & Frank Jonas

Allen Harris, in memory of Lynne Yanofsky.

Neil Hart, in appreciation of Robin Leonard.

Tybil Smith Kahn, in memory of Dr. Allan Kahn.

Sharon and Leonard Silverman, in honor of Mike Rankin's appointment to the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Claudia Bernard, in memory of Stan Hauer.

### *Fund for the House in Order Manual*

Ron Lezell, in memory of Sidney Rosenthal.

### *Inclusive Liturgy Fund*

Batya Kalis, in memory of Esther Rubin Kalis, Phillip Kalis, Sherman Kalis and Dorothy Kalis Hodes.

### *Kaiser Brunch Fund*

HIV Volunteers of Kaiser Hospital, in honor of Sha'ar Zahav's monthly brunch program.

### *Rabbi's Discretionary Fund*

Bobbie Rosenthal, in memory of Sidney Rosenthal.

David M. Mikuls

Laurie Hauer, in memory of Stan Hauer.

Batya Kalis, in honor of Rabbi Kahn.

Daniel Chesir, in appreciation of Rabbi Kahn.

Rabbi Morley T. Feinstein, in memory of Sidney Rosenthal.

Michael Kay, in memory of George Kay.

## HIV+ Support Group

CSZ has ongoing support services for members living with HIV/AIDS and their families and partners. Mark your calendars:

**Saturday, January 20, 3-5 pm: Support Group at CSZ.** Join us for a quiet afternoon of company, noshing, discussion and prayer.

**Friday, February 16, 6 pm: Catered Shabbat dinner** (location to be determined). Join us for kiddush, candles, schmoozing and a delicious meal. People are invited to attend Shabbat services at CSZ following dinner.

**Saturday, March 16, 3-5 pm: Support Group at CSZ.** Join us at Sha'ar Zahav for schmoozing, noshing and prayer.

If you have any questions, or if you would like to put your name on our confidential mailing list, please call Amy or Rabbi Kahn at the office (861-6932).

## Seder

*Continued from page 1*

tion of the fruits and nuts, if done with the proper intention, would cause the sparks of holy light hidden in the food to be liberated and rise up the heavenly ladder to return to their divine source—thereby contributing to the renewal of life in the coming year.

The meal will feature vegetarian foods along with four kinds of wine that will range in color from white to deep red, and a variety of songs, stories and blessings.

"This unique seder is based on the themes of joy, thankfulness and responsibility for the beauty of all nature," said Barak Gale, who with Brian Besser is coordinating the event. "This message is eternal, and yet it speaks to us even more profoundly in these times when our land, our water and the air we breathe are seriously threatened."

Dinner tickets are \$10 for members of any of the host or sponsoring organizations and \$12 for non-members. Reservations and checks must be received by January 26. Please send them to Janet Harris, Congregation Beth Sholom, PO Box 590418, San Francisco CA 94159-0418.

The program is being made possible partially through a special grant from the National Coalition on the Environment and Jewish Life, and through the support of the Koret Synagogue Institute.

## FAMILY EYECARE

Dr. Barak Gale  
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## Synagogue Information

**Rabbi Yoel Kahn**

### Officers:

*President*, David Stein (863-4769 or david.stein@internetmci.com)  
*Administrative Vice President*,  
 Diana Buchbinder  
*Program Vice President*, Judith Cohen  
*Treasurer*, Michael Zimmerman  
*Recorder*, Dona Rabinowitz

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Michael Chertok  
 Jonathan Comisar  
 Lyssa Friedman  
 David Gellman  
 Lisa Katz  
 Ed Lopatin  
 Carolyn Pines  
 Lane Schickler  
 Susan Tubbesing

### CSZ Staff:

*Office Manager*, Lea Salem  
*Kadimah Principal*, Phyllis Mintzer  
*Rabbi Kahn's Asst.*, Amy Clark  
*Program Coord.*, Dana Katz

### Committee Chairs:

*Archives*, open  
*ARZA contact*, Ron Lezell  
*Bequests and Donations*, Richard Inlander  
*Bikkur Cholim*, David Shaber  
*Brotherhood*, Stephan Howard  
*Building*, Mark Klaiman  
*Bylaws*, Edward Pollock  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Cookbook Project*, Robin Leonard and Rose Katz  
*Dues*, Lisa Katz and Sara Haber  
*Education*, Claire Rappoport  
*Endowment Fund*, Richard Inlander  
*Environmental Action*, Barak Gale and Brian Besser

*Finance*, Michael Zimmerman  
*Fine Arts*, Alice Prussin  
*Fundraising*, open  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*Infant-Toddler Chavurah*, David Couch  
*Leadership Development*, Irene Ogus  
*Long-Range Planning*, Allan Gold  
*Membership*, Sara Haber and Larry Wexler  
*Newsletter*, by committee  
*Oneg*, Allan Giannini  
*Past Presidents Council*, Merry Luskin  
*Personnel*, Diana Buchbinder  
*Pre-school Chavurah*, Nancy Meyer  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslasky  
*Religious School*, Ron Lezell and Martha Rosett  
*Ritual*, Ora Prochovnick  
*Social Action*, Eloise Magenheim  
*Volunteer Coordinator*, Nathan Robinson  
*Women's Chavurah*, Dona Rabinowitz

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Office Hours:** Monday–Friday from 9 am to 3 pm. Please call the synagogue office at 861-6932.

**Emergency Number:** In an emergency, the congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

**Bikkur Cholim:** If you or a friend who is a member of Sha'ar Zahav is ill in the hospital or at home, and would like to have the rabbi or a member of the Bikkur Cholim Committee call or visit, please notify the synagogue office.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Robin Leonard, liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Lane Schickler, liaison).

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the second Saturday of each month at 10 am—check calendar for each month. Morning Minyan meets Mondays at 8:30 am.

**Gift Shop Hours:** Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm.

**Library Hours:** Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## Birthdays

1 Steven Levine  
 1 Armando Miranda-Mendoza  
 1 Desmond Bernstein  
 2 Keith Barton  
 2 Lori Ubell  
 4 Judith Baer  
 4 Sarah Goodman  
 4 Maggie Rochlin  
 4 Richard Whiteman  
 6 Nathan Robinson  
 6 Claudio Resnick  
 9 Steven-Paul King  
 9 Max Rossoff-Nichols  
 11 Dvora Honigstein  
 11 Ellen Gierson  
 12 Tiela Chalmers  
 12 Florence Nacamulli  
 13 Alapai Michels  
 14 Michael Schwartz  
 14 Andrew Wariner  
 15 Jacqueline Mauro  
 15 Michael Weston  
 16 Deena Lahn  
 17 Gabriel Meyer-Edlin  
 19 Ellen Lewin  
 19 Mike Rankin  
 19 Debbie Ruskay  
 20 Ruby Cymrot-Wu  
 21 Johanna Ceapach Choinn  
 22 Laureen Ok Sun Kim  
 22 Henri Chris Neilson  
 23 Greta Miskatel  
 25 Mischa Singer-Fierer  
 25 Neil Hart  
 25 Marcy Whitebook  
 25 Susan Jacobson  
 27 Tali Buchman  
 28 Alexandra Blachman-Gentile  
 29 Jacob Montgomery  
 30 Ruth Schoenbach  
 31 Nora Downs

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**1** Monday  
9 Tevet

**2** Tuesday  
10 Tevet

- 6:30 pm, Dues committee in library

**3** Wednesday  
11 Tevet

**4** Thursday  
12 Tevet

**5** Friday  
13 Tevet

- 7 pm, Early Service: Daniel Chesir
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service: Larry Wexler and Brian Besser

**6** Saturday  
14 Tevet

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 5:30 pm, Havdalah potluck (dairy), Rabbi Nancy Flam & Jonathan Comisar; Niggun history program with Dr. Miles Krassen, Professor of Religion at Oberlin College

**7** Sunday  
15 Tevet

**8** Monday  
16 Tevet

- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan
- 6:30 pm, Va'ad meeting

**9** Tuesday  
17 Tevet

- 7 pm, Discussion with Reda Mansour, Vice Consul General of Israel for Pacific Northwest Region

**10** Wednesday  
18 Tevet

- CSZ serves dinner at St. Boniface Church
- 7 pm, Newsletter editing
- 7:30 pm, Kadimah Committee Meeting

**11** Thursday  
19 Tevet

- 9 am, Morning Minyan

**12** Friday  
20 Tevet

- CSZ serves dinner at St. Boniface Church
- 7:30 pm, Niggun Service
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service: Rabbi Kahn, Jody Reiss and Danielle Billinkoff

**13** Saturday  
21 Tevet

- CSZ serves dinner at St. Boniface Church
- No Kadimah (MLK Weekend)
- 10 am, Shabbat Service: Frank Yellin and Eileen Levy

**14** Sunday  
22 Tevet

**15** Monday  
23 Tevet

- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan
- 6 pm, Healing service
- 7 pm, Newsletter layout

**16** Tuesday  
24 Tevet

- 7 pm, Membership Committee Meeting

**17** Wednesday  
25 Tevet

**18** Thursday  
26 Tevet

- 6:30 pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting
- 7:45 pm, Adult Bar/Bat Mitzvah Meeting in library

**19** Friday  
27 Tevet

- 7 pm, Tot Shabbat
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service: Ora Prochovnick and Tiela Chalmers
- 8:15 pm, East Bay Services

**20** Saturday  
28 Tevet

- 9:30 am, Kadimah
- 3 pm, Support Group for Members with HIV/AIDS
- 4:30 pm, Torah Study/Havdalah/Potluck

**21** Sunday  
29 Tevet

**22** Monday  
1 Shevat

- Registration deadline for CSZ Camp Swig family week
- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan

**23** Tuesday  
2 Shevat

**24** Wednesday  
3 Shevat

**25** Thursday  
4 Shevat

- 9 am, Morning Minyan
- 6:30 pm, Ritual Committee meeting
- 7 pm, Newsletter distribution

**26** Friday  
5 Shevat

- Youth Chavurah Weekend
- 6 pm, Youth Chavurah Family Shabbat Dinner
- 8:15 pm, Shabbat Service: Rabbi Kahn, Rebecca Doctors-Cohen and Evan Kuluk

**27** Saturday  
6 Shevat

- Youth Chavurah Weekend
- 9:30 am, Kadimah

**28** Sunday  
7 Shevat

- 10:30 am, Kaiser Brunch

**29** Monday  
8 Shevat

- 8:30 am, Morning Minyan

**30** Tuesday  
9 Shevat

**31** Wednesday  
10 Shevat

**Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.**

## FEBRUARY FORWARD DEADLINES

### FOR ADVERTISING TUESDAY, JANUARY 2

To place a display ad, call Roslyn Fuerman (510/526-1209 or froslyn@aol.com). To place a classified ad, call the office.

### FOR ARTICLES MONDAY, JANUARY 8

Please submit articles both on 3½-inch disk and hard copy on paper *double spaced*. Write "Attn. Gaily Forward" on top and mail to CSZ. *No deadline extensions without advance permission from the editorial coordinator (821-3855) or kalis@out.org.internet.*

### East Bay Services

- 1/19 Margaret Rosoff, 4145 Opal Street, Oakland (510/653-3236)
- 2/16 Deborah Agre, 5255 Boyd Avenue, Oakland (510/658-5361)



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Jewish Values and Spirituality in Daily Life  
Camp Swig, March 8-10, 1996

R E G I S T R A T I O N F O R M  
final deadline is January 22, 1996

Rates for the weekend are sliding scale:

adults: \$125-105 • youth (13-18): \$90-75 • kids (3-12): \$65-50 • under 2: \$25-0

A limited number of scholarships are available, as are volunteer opportunities--please call Mike Zimmerman (415) 252-7672 to make arrangements. Nonmembers please add \$10 each for adults and \$5 each for youth and kids.

Name _____	age (if 18 or under) _____	registration fee _____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

contact name and phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of people: \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount: \_\_\_\_\_

I can contribute to the scholarship fund for this retreat: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT

If paying by check, please make out to "CSZ" and mail with this form to "Camp Swig Weekend, CSZ, 220 Danvers Street, San Francisco, CA 94114".

If paying by credit card, please complete:

\_\_\_\_\_ Visa \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

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Please join the Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Northern California Council in honoring

## ***Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler***

*who is retiring as President of the  
Union of American Hebrew  
Congregations after 23 years  
of inspired leadership, with an  
afternoon of Jewish music, featuring  
Debbie Friedman in concert.*

Since assuming the Presidency of the UAHC in 1973, **Rabbi Schindler** has played a prominent role in furthering Reform Judaism's many purposes, including encouraging the full participation and equality of women in religious life; publishing the first liberal commentary on the Torah; developing the most extensive and modern educational program of any branch of Judaism; leading the struggle for religious pluralism in Israel; and guiding a network of social action programs for world peace, economic and social justice, civil rights and civil liberties.

### **Debbie Friedman**

is a pioneer of contemporary American Jewish

music. In addition to her songwriting, she teaches songleading and music workshops, directs a 300-person chorale, and performs throughout North America. She is also active in Jewish education, youth programs and synagogue life. Having recently released her twelfth recording, Debbie's unique musical style continues to delight and inspire audiences throughout the world.

Please join us in honoring Rabbi Schindler for his humanity, vision, pioneering spirit, warmth and unwavering commitment to Reform Judaism and the Jewish people.

***Sunday, March 3, 1996, 4:00 p.m.  
Congregation Emanu-El  
2 Lake Street, San Francisco***



### **Debbie Friedman in Concert**



Union of American Hebrew Congregations  
Attn: Linda Feldman  
703 Market Street, Suite 1300  
San Francisco, CA 94103-2193  
(415) 392-7080

Tickets are \$18 for adults (\$20 at the door),  
\$9 for children & students (\$10 at the door).  
Checks and money orders payable to UAHC.  
Sorry, no credit cards.  
Reservations by February 23 appreciated.

Please send \_\_\_\_ adult tickets at \$18 each \_\_\_\_ child/student tickets at \$9 each to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.



